

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please make the following amendments to the specification (material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~).

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 4, as indicated below:

This application is a continuation of and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/439,843, now U.S. Patent No. ~~_____~~6,719,832, which was filed on May 15, 2003, and which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/086,680, now U.S. Patent No. 6,569,227, which was filed on February 28, 2002. U.S. Patent No. 6,569,227 is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/067,275, now U.S. Patent No. 6,562,111, which was filed on February 4, 2002, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/967,172, now U.S. Patent No. 6,494,937, which was filed on September 27, 2001, and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/003,164, now U.S. Patent No. 6,458,189, which was filed on November 14, 2001. The complete disclosures of the above-identified patent applications are hereby incorporated by reference for all purposes.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 43, line 18, as indicated below:

Supports 54, including screen structure 210, may include a coating 219 on the surfaces ~~74~~211 that engage membranes 46, such as indicated in dash-dot lines in Fig. 32. Examples of suitable coatings include aluminum oxide, tungsten carbide, tungsten nitride, titanium carbide, titanium nitride, and mixtures thereof. These coatings are generally characterized as being thermodynamically stable with respect to decomposition in the presence of hydrogen. Suitable coatings are formed from materials, such as oxides, nitrides, carbides, or intermetallic compounds, that can be applied as a coating and which are thermodynamically stable with respect to decomposition in the presence of hydrogen under the operating parameters (temperature, pressure, etc.) under which the hydrogen purification device will be operated. Suitable methods for applying such coatings to the screen or expanded metal screen member include chemical vapor deposition, sputtering, thermal evaporation, thermal spraying, and, in the case of at least aluminum oxide, deposition of the metal (e.g., aluminum) followed by oxidation of the metal to give aluminum oxide. In at least some embodiments, the coatings may be described as preventing intermetallic diffusion between the hydrogen-selective membranes and the screen structure.